

12 Spring Alley (Commercial Building)  
12 Spring Alley  
Wilmington  
New Castle County  
Delaware

HABS No. DE-201

HABS  
DEL,  
2-WILM.  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Delaware	COUNTY New Castle County	TOWN OR VICINITY Wilmington
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) 12 Spring Alley, Wilmington, Delaware		HABS NO. DE-201
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 12 Spring Alley, Wilmington, Delaware		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) mid to late 19th century (construction)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) 12 Spring Alley is a small scale industrial structure of the type commonly erected as infill for the center of large urban blocks. In Wilmington these factory buildings contained a variety of businesses including leather works and carriage shops.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick: mixed common bonds. Interior braced frame supported on samson posts and pillows.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangular, 34'8" street front by 83'6" deep. Open interior. 23' by 15'5" south flounder.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE 6 over 6 light sash; paneled brick walls; wood lintel openings; building extended twice from 7-course common bond to 9-course common bond. Shallow gable roof with 17 bay clerestory		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Open interior with heavy flooring laid over diagonally placed sub-flooring; open string stair; framework of floors carried on samson posts.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Mid to late 19th century. Structure extended back from Spring Alley in two periods. Each extension required demolition of rear gable wall and extension of fenestration of clerestory.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Vacant; fair condition.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Cont. from significance: The area in which 12 Spring Alley stands was first developed in the late 18th century as a combination commercial and residential neighborhood. As the residential core of the city shifted west, the area became more commercial and industrial.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Cultural Resource Survey, Delaware Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Bernard Herman, Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware		DATE 8-19-85